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Copy 8 of 8

4 September 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR : Acting Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : Deputy Director (Research)

SUBJECT : Status of IDEALIST Coverage of Cuba

REFERENCE : a. Memo for ADCI from Chairman, COMOR, Dated
4 September 1962; Subject: "Cuban Requirements"
(TCS 13350-62)

b. Typical Cuban Mission Plan (Attached)

25X1D 1. In conformity with the terms of Reference a., reconvergence of the island of Cuba is planned as soon as possible, taking into account the findings of Mission [redacted] which confirmed the existence of numerous SAM sites. Following are the major actions taken to date:

a. A complete IDEALIST staging team is deploying from Edwards Air Force Base to Laughlin Air Force Base on 4 September. This group was purposely increased in size to permit deployment from Laughlin Air Force Base of an aircraft recovery team if required, while maintaining an operational capability at Laughlin. The mission aircraft will be ferried from Edwards AFB to Laughlin AFB the afternoon of 4 September, to be ready for commitment once target weather conditions permit. USAF-supplied support airlift will remain in place at Laughlin on standby for the aircraft recovery team.

b. A backup mission aircraft was expedited through Lockheed's Burbank facility over the Labor Day weekend, is due for delivery to the IDEALIST Detachment at Edwards AFB on 4 September. This aircraft will be ready for operational use

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on 6 September and will be ferried to the staging base on that day. A third mission aircraft, [redacted] arrived at Edwards AFB 3 September and is being expedited through periodic inspection to enlarge the Detachment's capability. It is expected to have this aircraft ready for service in the period 10-12 September. 25X1A

c. Air refueling checkout is planned for 4 September during the ferry flight to Laughlin AFB, using a KC-135 tanker aircraft. This will permit qualification of the mission pilot for possible in-flight refueling during the actual mission, to permit greater operational latitude in the selection of entry points and routes over Cuba. Post-strike recovery base facilities and missed air refueling alternates in southern Florida are being examined by the IDEALIST Operations Staff. A selection will be made on 4 September and necessary coordination with USAF will thereafter be effected.

d. Mission take will be processed at the Eastman Kodak plant in Rochester, New York. Fast transportation of take has been coordinated by Headquarters with the U. S. Navy, which will fly the film from the recovery base to Rochester in an A3D. Initial readout of mission take can be accomplished within 18 hours following landing from the mission.

e. Target weather requirements have been established with Weather Central, SAC, Omaha, for continuous weather coverage of the island of Cuba. Present outlook is unfavorable, with better target weather anticipated later in the week.

[redacted] at compliance with paragraph 2 of Reference a. e something on the order of three successful for Cuban missions are in hand for the month

[redacted]
JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Deputy Assistant Director
(Special Activities)

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